

Focus on Fifth

Weekly News for Holmes Fifth-Grade Families

News and Events in the 5th Grade

April 14, 2014

www.op97.org

Important Dates

April 25

Rockin Lock In

May 8

IAAT (algebra placement test)

THIS IS A CHANGE

May 14

Robert Crown Field Trip

May 16

Transition Picnic

June 6 (tentative)

Pool Outing

June 9 (This is a CHANGE)

Completion Ceremony

June 10

Last Day of School (Calendar Change)

Student Council Food Drive

Student Council is sponsoring a food drive to benefit the Oak Park Food Pantry. In addition to non-perishable food items, the Food Pantry also accepts monetary donations. For every dollar that is donated, the Oak Park Food Pantry can purchase approximately \$12 worth of food. Please be generous with your donations.

Report Card Envelopes

Please return signed report card envelopes to your child's homeroom teacher as soon as possible. The envelopes will be used for next trimester's report card.

Typing Practice

Students can log on to Custom Typing from home to practice keyboarding skills. The Custom Typing program is accessible from the District's website, and students should begin practicing keyboarding skills at home. The link is: <http://www.op97.org/technology/Custom-Typing.cfm>

SPECIAL AREA SUBJECTS

Art - [www.http://owholmesartgallery.blogspot.com](http://owholmesartgallery.blogspot.com) The results for the Design an Ad contest were published over spring break. There were ten schools in the contest. The paper awarded 1st, 2nd and 3rd place as well as three honorable mentions. Holmes received three of the six possible awards! Congratulations to Evelyn Hunt (third place), Olivia Cordes and Sophie Bessell (both Honorable Mentions) for designing winning advertisements!

Music - This year we will be orchestrating some of our compositions for the 5th grade Shakespeare plays. Students will use playing skills and Garage Band on their iPads to record their works. This week we will be figuring out the chords we need to accompany our pieces. Lastly, Abigail Fernandez, from Vandercook College of Music (where I received my masters), will be student teaching at Holmes till late May.

Chorus - Thank you to all chorus members and their families for a wonderful choral festival. The students did an amazing job both on and off stage...but we're not done yet! Soon to come--information on a May concert with the gold belt recorder ensemble and our half time performance with the Chicago Sky. Please save the date Friday 6/6!

Spanish - All classes finished their original stories. Students illustrated their own mini libros and will be acting out the stories in class this week. Students can read the stories to la familia y amigos for extra puntos. <http://www.mpoleski.blogspot.com/> .

Library - Our research project is underway. We are using CultureGrams to research a country. The final piece will be a narrative over an imovie, describing a "day in the life" of a child living in that country. This project will be completed during library time, so if you have any questions, feel free to email me, mmaneck@op97.org . **READING OLYMPIANS:** The Extreme competition is on Tuesday, April 29th at the OPPL. There is a meeting this Tuesday, April 15th at 12:15 in the library for a quick check in. For more information, the library home page is <http://www.op97.org/holmes/mediacenter/> .

Physical Education - (www.d97mrwilliams.blogspot.com)

Resource

Ms. Rose has created a new blog for the families of her Resource students. For more information on her activities, please visit: [Ms. Rose- Resource Support](#)

Reading/Literature

This week, we begin to review the 5th-grade skill of identifying point of view. Understanding whose perspective in which a text is written is important to raise reading comprehension. Also, students will work to pinpoint whether a story is written in 1st, 2nd, or 3rd person point of view. As we read we will do our best to also make accurate inferences and describe the theme of a story.

Writing

In writing we will begin to write a persuasive essay on the question: Which is more important, imagination or knowledge? We will focus on writing a strong opening paragraph.

Math

Geometry continues to be our focus in Math. This week, we will discuss polygon properties and practice measuring and classifying polygons. The goal is for students to be able to classify polygons into a hierarchy according to their properties. You can help your child by reviewing the definitions of

the different types of quadrilaterals. Students seem to be having difficulty with identifying trapezoids (only one pair of parallel sides) and rhombuses (all congruent sides) and recognizing that shapes may fit into more than one category (square is a rhombus, a rectangle, a quadrilateral, a polygon)

Science

This week, we began our exploration of the respiratory system. The human body unit includes the dissection of sheep hearts and eyeballs. Please let us know if you are interested in assisting with dissection.

Social Studies

In Social Studies this week we will be focusing on the Bill of Rights. We will consider different scenarios and decided whether a citizen's rights have been respected or violated.

Spelling/Word Study

Students should study for our Spelling Bee. They should complete three Spelling Activities in preparation.

Visit the **Holmes Digital Backpack** - <http://www.op97.org/holmes/digitalbackpack/>

We're on the Web!

Visit us at: <http://holmes5thgrade.wikispaces.com/>

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